GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1204
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2016
Memorial on Morarji Desai
Fatepara Shri Devajibhai Govindbhai

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had constituted a concept Committee to develop a suitable Memorial on the Samadhi of Late Shri Morarjibhai Desai named as Abhay Ghat;

(b) whether the State Government of Gujarat has sent letters to the Government from time to time to pay compensation to Sabarmati Ashram Gaushala Trust in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by the Government in the matter; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CULTURE & TOURISM

DR. MAHESH SHARMA

(a) Yes, Madam. A Concept Committee under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Sabarmati Asharam Gaushala Trust, Ahmedabad was constituted on 23.2.1996 to develop a suitable Memorial on the Samadhi of Shri Morarji Desai at Sabarmati, Ahmedabad as a part of commemoration of his birth centenary during 1996-1997.

(b), (c) & (d) The Sabarmati Ashram Gaushala Trust did not ask for the cost of the land at the time of construction of the memorial in 1996. However, a proposal for payment of compensation towards cost of the land was, for the first time, received in the Ministry in the year 2000 and was examined at length. Since, the commemoration period had already ended by then, the request could not be acceded to by the Ministry of Culture.